quoted Rs. 50,000/- only for the same job; and

(c) whether the Air bus industry had similarly charged very high rates from Air India and Indian Airlines of other repair jobs undertaken earlier and if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir, Airbus Industry will supply replacements for pressure panel between Frame 39 and 40 of A-310 aircraft at a cost of $54,000 per panel.

(b) No, Sir. Hindustan Aeronautic Limited has not given quotation.

(c) Airbus Industry provides technical assistance for repairs/modifications to all customer airlines based on standard international rates.

Share of I.T.D.C. Hotels

2876. PROF SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have worked out modalities for certain disinvestment for purchase of shares in I.T.D.C. hotels alongwith their identification;

(b) whether Government propose to sell these shares exclusively to foreign buyers including the N.R.Is;

(c) whether concerned trade unions of I.T.D.C. have not been taken in confidence while working out the modalities;

(d) whether Government have received comprehensive representations from various Unions in this regard; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Government have formulated a scheme whereby small groups of ITDC hotels would be formed for the purpose of developing them as joint ventures with leading foreign hotel chains. In the first instance, two groups of four hotels each are proposed to be developed in this manner for which offers have been invited from foreign hotel chains.

(c) to (e) The Government is aware about the concern of Trade Unions of ITDC to safeguard the interest of the workers. Every possible effort will be made in this regard in any arrangement that is finalised.

Star trading house certificates

2877. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme to amend star trading house certificates to top exporting firms;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof including the criteria adopted;

(c) what is the number of trade houses with their performance during last three years; and

(d) what are the details of incentives being offered to star trading houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The new Import and Export Policy effective from 1.4.1992 is being formulated.

(c) Only 9 firms have been given recognition as Star Trading Houses from 1990-91 and 1991-92 whose export performance is as under:—

(Value in Rs. crores)

1988-89	1989-90	1990-91
710.63	1316.90	1420.63

(d) The new Import and Export Policy effective from 1.4.1992 is being formulated.

New packaging regulations by Germany for exporters

2878. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new regulations on packaging materials by Germany stipulates certain norms to be followed by exporters;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether these new regulations will affect India's exports to Germany;

(d) if so, what are the steps taken to export the Indian products as per the new regulations; and

(e) whether the other European

Countries are bringing similar regulations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The German Government's Packaging Ordinance dated 12-6-91 relates to avoidance of waste from packaging and envisages packaging from environmentally compatible, re-usable or recyclable materials. It covers sales packaging, secondary packaging and transport packaging, drinks packaging etc.

(c) and (d) Efforts are being made to disseminate the information to the Indian exporters so that they can meet the new regulations in order to promote our exports.

(e) We are not aware of similar regulations being brought by other European countries.

Ban on the imports of the goods by Germany and Switzerland

2879. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Germany and Switzerland are taking actions to ban the import of goods made by child labour;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether such ban will affect our carpet export; and

(d) if so, what are the steps taken to meet such a situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) there is no ban at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Employment of children has sometimes been publicised in these countries. In view of the likely adverse impact on Indian carpet exports, some measures taken in this respect include the supply of publicity material and video cassettes to importers which bring out the employment of children in its proper perspective.

India's balance of trade position

2880. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question No. 99 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd March, 1992 and state the position of country's balance of trade during the years 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): The country's trade deficit during the year 1989-90 and 1990-91 amounted to Rs. 7734 crores and Rs. 10640 crores respectively. The trade figures for the financial year 1991-92 are available upto April-December 1991 and the trade deficit for this period amounted to Rs. 3906 crores.

Enhancement of threshhold limit for recognition of export houses

2881. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with government to enchance the threshhold limits for recognition of export houses, trade houses and star trade houses; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The New Import and Export Policy effective from 1.4.1992 is being formulated.

India's trade relation with Kuwait and Iraq

2882. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of measures Government have taken, so far, to restore the trade relations with Kuwait and Iraq in the Post-Gulf-War period, till date; and

(b) what are the details of the areas in which India suffered a loss of exports due to Gulf-war?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Ban on trade with Kuwait was lifted on 14th March, 1991 after her soverignty was restored. Since then exports to Kuwait